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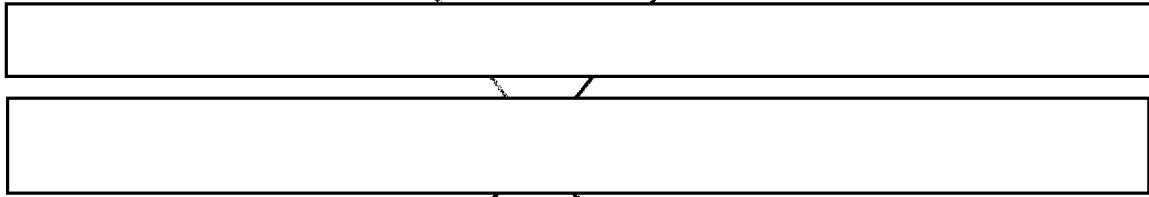


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URUGUAY: Opposition parties appear to be recovering from the shock of the sudden dissolution of Congress and the country's largest labor confederation. They are attempting to organize a challenge to President Bordaberry and the military. The leftist Frente Amplio coalition and the Blanco Party are reportedly calling for Bordaberry's resignation and the election of a constituent assembly to write a new constitution.

Before the confederation was outlawed top union leaders had also been calling for Bordaberry's resignation, but had indicated privately to the military that the government might win labor's support by announcing social reforms favoring workers. There has been no such announcement, but the generals have ordered the security forces to use restraint in dealing with labor demonstrations.

Opposition efforts are being impeded by the government's ban on political agitation and the self-imposed exile of several of the most militant opposition leaders. In addition, the general strike, which was widespread in the first days after the dissolution of Congress and the labor confederation, seems to be weakening. A further weakening of the strike could result from the President's statement yesterday declaring all strikes illegal. This could seriously undercut the efforts of the opposition. If the opposition does not move quickly, its efforts to organize may be overtaken by a return of the traditional apathy of the Uruguayan public.

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JAPAN: The 50-percent cut in US soybean exports effective through mid-September has caused a sharp jump in soybean prices in Tokyo and may force the Japanese to ration the commodity temporarily.

Soybean prices rose 14 percent immediately following the US action and are now 40 percent higher than a week ago. With slightly more than a two months' supply of soybeans on hand or in transit to Japan, government officials have requested the US to honor previously signed contracts which would provide another 60-day supply to be shipped during July-September. The cut in US shipments, which was announced on 2 July, will result in an extremely tight supply situation that could leave Japan with stocks for only 15 to 20 days by the end of September. Because soybean products are staples in the Japanese diet, the Ministry of Agriculture already has announced it will take steps to prevent hoarding and allocate available supplies.

Sharp inflation in food costs this past year has been a major factor in causing public dissatisfaction with the Tanaka cabinet. Expectations of additional rises in the retail prices of soybean products will further anger Japan's consumers and may be reflected in larger than anticipated losses for the ruling party in next week's Tokyo assembly elections.

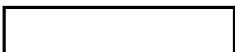
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ROMANIA-YUGOSLAVIA: President Ceausescu will visit President Tito in Belgrade in mid-July; it will be their seventh meeting since August 1968. These meetings have become a standard feature of the ties between Bucharest and Belgrade since their common opposition to the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia drew the two Balkan mavericks close together. In addition to bilateral cooperation, they will probably discuss the European security talks in Helsinki. Ceausescu will be the third East European leader to visit Tito in three months. Poland's Gierek was there in May and Hungary's Kadar is scheduled to arrive next week.

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